1. All the regular/flag stations where electricity from State Electricity Boards is available within 1 km. should be provided with electricity.
2. Halt stations should be provided with electricity only if power supply is available within 1 km. and a pair of trains stop at night.
3. The regular/flag/halt stations where electricity from State Electricity Board is not available within a distance of 1 km. and there is no possibility of power supply being available nearby in foreseeable future but a pair of trains halt during the night may be considered for provision of electricity through solar power.
4. However, regular/flag/halt stations which are not manned round the clock by railway staff specifically posted at these stations need not be considered for electrification till such time the status changes, in consideration of likely losses of Railway property through theft etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The policy indicated in (b) above has come into force recently. As per this policy as on date seven railway stations have become eligible for electrifications; these are Ambica Rohina halt, Murti halt, Pokharni Narasimha halt, Banpipala halt, Ukhali halt, Manegaon halt and Patrad halt. One more station viz. Bhandewadi which was eligible for electrification as per earlier norms has already been taken up for electrification which is expected to be completed by 31.3.1996.

(e) The above seven stations which are eligible for electrification as at present have been planned to be taken up for electrification during 1996-97.

Reduction in Travelling Fares on Suburban Railway

2190. SMT. BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from the commuters associations that the travelling fares on the suburban railway system should be reduced and brought at par with the bus fares;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide better passenger services at a reasonable passenger fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not proposed to reduce fares on suburban railway system since these are already below cost. It is not possible to keep them on par with bus fare because railway fares are uniform all over the country while bus fares very from region to region.

(c) It is railways' constant endeavour to improve passenger services by providing adequate accommodation, improving punctuality and passenger amenities like improved and computer reservation systems, self printing ticketing machines, cleanlines of stations and coaches, provision of drinking water and catering facilities, etc.

Project Undertaken by TCIL

2191. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of the project undertaken by the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. for Post and Telecommunications Corporation in Zimbabwe and whether the same has been sub-contracted by TCIL and if so, the details of the Company and the amount;

(b) the details of the persons and contractual conditions of the Computer